



San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 25, 2003

CONTACT: Maria Velasquez, Press Secretary (619) 235-5725 (pager & voicemail)

**\$1.5 MILLION GIFT TO CAMP HOPE
FOR CHILDREN OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Waitt Family Foundation Contributes \$150,000
DONORS ANNOUNCED AT THE SD FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER FOUNDATION GALA**

San Diego, CA: The Serenity Fund, a family foundation that focuses on improving the lives of children, donated \$1.5 million to Camp HOPE, a summer camp for children who have been affected by family violence. Camp HOPE is located at Lake Sutherland and is a program of the San Diego Family Justice Center-America's most comprehensive "one stop shop" justice center that offers a variety of services under one roof to families who are striving to break the cycle of domestic violence. San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn made the gift announcement at the second annual "Family Justice Center Foundation Gala," and said, "The donors want to remain anonymous, but they are a San Diego couple who have big hearts. We truly appreciate their gift and their leadership. We are saving families, saving lives."

The Waitt Family Foundation also donated \$150,000 to Camp HOPE, and \$100,000 to the Family Justice Center. In addition, the Office on Violence Against Women in the U. S. Department of Justice awarded a \$535,000 grant to the Family Justice Center's Forensic Medical Unit. The grant and gifts were announced at tonight's Gala which was attended by 400 community supporters.

The San Diego Family Justice Center Foundation sponsored the Gala and is the fundraising arm for the San Diego Family Justice Center and Camp HOPE. San Diego City Council member Toni Atkins and Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Greg Cox served respectively as Mistress and Master of Ceremonies. Also, in attendance were San Diego City Council members Scott Peters and Michael Zucchet. The Event was co-chaired by Doug and Nancy Barnhart. The Honorary Co-Chairs were San Diego City Attorney Gwinn and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis. This year's major Gala sponsors were Viejas Enterprises, the Waitt Family Foundation, Sharp Grossmont Hospital and Sierra Pacific West, Inc. The Gala was held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in downtown San Diego.

The Gala also celebrated the first anniversary of the Family Justice Center, which opened on October 10, 2002. Earlier this month, at a White House ceremony, President George W. Bush recognized the Family Justice Center. He announced his "President's Family Justice Center Initiative" which will create 12 family justice centers across America, modeled after the San Diego Family Justice Center.

In addition, Sharp Grossmont Hospital was also recognized for its leadership in the development and sponsorship of the nation's first freestanding forensic medical unit for the treatment, evaluation and documentation of victims' domestic violence injuries. The Sharp Grossmont Hospital Forensic Medical Unit at the San Diego Family Justice Center was officially unveiled on October 15th. For more information visit familyjusticecenter.org ###